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DP/PROJECTS/7345

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF COLOMBIA

IPF:(1992-96) $ 11 700 000

(COL/92/002) - Support to the Youth, Women and Family Presidential Programme

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	12 August 1992
Expected duration:	30 months
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Youth, Women and Family Presidential Programme (Presidency of Colombia)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 350 000 Source of funds: IPF
Government cost sharing:	$1 341 300
Total UNDP budget:	$1 691 300

Project background

During the last decade, several of Colombia's social indicators have been showing steady improvements. Nevertheless, various population groups such as those under critical poverty and vulnerable groups including women, youth and senior citizens have not partaken of this trend. Inequality is exacerbated by gender and age: women's per capita income is 36 percent lower than that of men, their unemployment lies at 14.4 percent while that of men is 7.6 percent, the chief cause of female mortality continues to be child bearing related complications. As regards senior citizens, 12.45 percent are covered by social security, 42 percent do not have any source of income and 32 percent are illiterate. In the young population, 54 percent of those between 12 and 17 years of age do not have access to education and 18.2 percent between 20 and 24 years are unemployed.

Various public entities and NGOs have traditionally organized programmes oriented towards vulnerable groups. However, these actions have not taken into account the specific needs of the different groups, have been disperse and atomized, and have not produced

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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significant impact. Moreover, a coherent gender and age conscious social policy has been almost completely absent, thereby providing little impetus for equitable participation of these groups in the socio-economic development of the country. In response to the above-described situation, in 1990 the administration of President Gaviria created the Presidential Advisory Office. This body was to serve as focal point in the social sector, evaluate the extant policies, and define through a participatory process, priorities for the poor and vulnerable population groups. It is pertinent to note here that the new Constitution emphasises civil rights and special constitutional guarantees for vulnerable groups, and insists on decentralization and participation as a basic condition for a real integration into the development process.

Under the project (COL/90/008) Support to the Presidential Advisory Office for Women and Family UNDP supported the Government in preparing its social priorities to: (i) place the human being at the centre of development, assigning special importance to gender and age differentiation; (ii) ensure the democratic participation of these vulnerable groups in the decision making process; (iii) focalize public expenditures in order to increase social investment; (iv) identify the entity responsible for coordinating the social sector; (v) adapt norms and regulations related to women, youth and senior citizens to the changes brought by the National Constitution; and (vi) strengthen the role of local governments, the private sector, NGOs and grassroots organizations in the management of social programmes.

Description of project

The development objective is to improve the quality of life of Colombia's most vulnerable groups. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) integrate women, youth and senior citizens' dimensions into the institutional framework of national social policies; (b) coordinate the women, youth and senior citizens programmes with the sectorial entities; (c) strengthen regional and local governments as well as NGOs and grassroots organizations for the management of women, youth and senior citizens programmes; and (d) promote community organization and mobilize public opinion around the issues of women, youth and senior citizens.

Inputs

UNDP will provide four work-months of short-term international consultants and 560 work-months of national consultants in age and gender issues related to employment, health, nutrition, education, recreation, culture, housing and other areas such as legal assistance, communications and information; subcontracts for policy papers, communications strategies and legal studies; seminars and training programmes; equipment; publications, travel and sundry costs.

The Government will provide counterpart personnel, office space, equipment and supplies.

Financial data

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Personnel	1 146 000
Subcontract	110 000
Training	120 000
Equipment	200 000
Miscellaneous	115 300
Total	1 691 300

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